

30th Cambridge River Festival: Sat., June 13, Noon-6pm

Connect: Folk and Roots Stage Schedule and Biographies

Weeks Footbridge at DeWolfe Street

Performers selected by TOAD and The Lizard Lounge

Childsplay

Noon-12:50

In 22 years of performing, Childsplay has featured some of the leading virtuosos in traditional and contemporary fiddle music. Consisting of more than two dozen musicians that come from all over the United States and Sweden, Childsplay represents the fiddle traditions of Ireland, Scandinavia, New England, and beyond. Tying together these far-ranging stylistic influences are their instruments, each member of the string section plays a violin or viola made by violin-maker, fiddler, and artistic director Bob Childs, right here in Cambridge.

MC Mr. Napkins

12:50-1pm

Gretel

1-1:50pm

This three-piece band, based in New England, describe their sound as “folk music evolution.” Led by Reva Williams along with Melissa Myers and Phil DuPertuis, Gretel uses every sort of instrument from traditional acoustic guitars and harmonicas to typewriters, saws, and five-gallon buckets. Formed in 2003, they recently released their third CD, *The Dregs*, at Cambridge’s Lizard Lounge.

Baker Thomas and Friends

2-2:50pm

Led by “24 hour Tom,” Tom Bianchi and his friends play folk rock music with a splash of comedy. Tom first arrived in Boston in 1996 during a snowstorm and fell in love with the city. Ever since he’s been performing in MBTA stops with songs such as *The Sauce Song*, a humorous story of a man dropping tomato sauce at the Hynes Convention Center MBTA stop.

Avi and Celia

3-3:50pm

A careful mix of traditional American music, Avi & Celia have studied folk, jazz, soul, rock, and pop music to create a blend that is truly their own. Aspiring to making expressive music for people of all backgrounds, races, and classes, Avi & Celia’s most recent album *Let It Rise* combines hopeful idealism with personal commentary on social and political agendas. Formed in 2003 at the University of Vermont, they now live in Cambridge.

MC Mr. Napkins

3:50-4pm

Miss Tess

4-4:50pm

Performing a self-named style of “modern vintage,” Miss Tess finds her muse in anything old-fashioned, harking back to the bygone era when musicians wore suits or dresses, and jazz was played as often in ballrooms as in bars. Accompanied by the Bon Ton Parade, a small ensemble that leans heavily on brushed drums and saxophone, the group taps into that laid-back cabaret sound that appeals to the vagabond lurking inside all of us. Miss Tess was named as a “Local on the Verge” by the *Boston Globe* last year, and won “Outstanding Folk Artist of the Year” award at December’s Boston Music Awards.

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MC Mr. Napkins

4:50-5pm

Tim Gearan

5-5:50pm

A native of New York, Tim decided to start taking his musical career seriously as a teenager while listening to the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Since then he has been touring the United States and Europe, releasing numerous albums, and is currently enjoying a ten-year residency Monday nights at TOAD in Porter Square. At the 2004 Boston Music Awards Tim received a Gibson Guitar Unsung Hero Award.